

HOUSE No. 1165

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter v. Kocot

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to preserving Polish heritage in the Pioneer Valley.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Peter v. Kocot

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Hampshire

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE HOUSE, NO. 1184 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PRESERVING POLISH HERITAGE IN THE PIONEER VALLEY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Whereas, the Pioneer Valley is the home to more people of Polish heritage than any other
2 area of Massachusetts, and

3 Whereas, public colleges and universities have suffered reductions in funding for studies of the arts and
4 humanities during the past several years, and

5 Whereas, the documentation, preservation and research of this heritage and the contributions of the Polish
6 people to the socioeconomic vitality of this region and the Commonwealth is an important public policy
7 goal, therefore

8 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and support the
9 preservation of Polish culture and history in the Pioneer Valley. The purpose of
10 said special commission shall be to promote public support and funding of Polish
11 cultural preservation activities in western Massachusetts, and to compliment those
12 activities that acknowledge the contributions people of Polish heritage have made
13 and continue to make to the Pioneer Valley and the Commonwealth of
14 Massachusetts. Said commission shall evaluate the public and private resources
15 available to preserve and research Polish language, history, culture, genealogy and
16 the immigrant experience. Said commission will serve as a public clearinghouse
17 for legislative and private efforts to secure additional funding for archival and
18 educational efforts.

19 Said special commission shall be comprised of three members of the House of
20 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker, of which at least two shall be of Polish
21 heritage; two members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President; three
22 members appointed by the Governor, in consultation with the legislative delegation
23 representing the Pioneer Valley, all of which shall be officers in Polish heritage or
24 Polish genealogical organizations located in Hampshire, Hampden or Franklin
25 counties and one member to be recommended by the chair of the Slavic studies
26 department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

27 Said special commission may receive funding through state appropriation for the
28 purposes of this act, provided that a state college or community college located in
29 the Pioneer Valley, may allocate meeting room space for the purposes of said
30 special commission, and provided further, that the special commission shall file its
31 report, including a fiscal note, with the Clerks of the House and Senate, the
32 Chairmen of the House and Senate committees on ways and means, no later than
33 March 1, 2010.